

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A device for isolating cigarettes from a quantity of cigarettes located in a shaft, comprising:

a pivotal flap at the outlet of the shaft for releasing one cigarette that is to be isolated[[],] ; and [[comprising]]

a retaining element for holding back the remaining cigarettes in the shaft which is disposed above the flap in the direction of movement of the cigarettes whereby the retaining element is a resilient thrust piece[[.]] ,

wherein [[-]] the flap and the retaining element are parts of a pivotal element,

[[-]] wherein during a rotary movement of the pivotal element, the flap releases one cigarette, and the retaining element enters [[the]] an outlet track of the shaft for the purposes of holding back further cigarettes, and

[[-]] wherein following reverse rotation of the pivotal element, the flap is located transversely in the shaft and holds back the cigarettes, whilst the retaining element is located outside the shaft.

2. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the resilient thrust piece clamps [[the]] a succeeding cigarette in the outlet track.

3. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, [[wherein]] further comprising a container [[is]] in the form of a cassette in which the cigarettes are arranged one above the other in [[a]] the shaft.

4. (Previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the cigarettes that are to be isolated are test specimens for subsequent measuring processes.

5.-7. (Cancelled).